

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-04 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /052 W

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R 311412Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2996

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 0315

E.B. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM RW US

SUBJ: RWANDA VIP COMMUNICATIONS

FOR AF/C

1. BACKGROUND. GOR SURETE (AND PRESIDENT'S OFFICE) CONTINUES BE SEVERELY DISAPPOINTED WITH COMMERCIAL RADIO EQUIPMENT PURCHASED BY SURETE HEAD LIZINDE DURING US TRIP. ACCORDING EMB UNDERSTANDING, LIZINDE SPECIFIED AND THOUGHT HE WAS PURCHASING EQUIPMENT SUFFICIENT FOR PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA TO HAVE RELIABLE VOICE COMMUNICATION THROUGHOUT RWANDA AND EVEN ABROAD. COMPANY REP FROM NAIROBI VISITED RWANDA TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, BUT LEFT WITHOUT IMPROVING PERFORMANCE. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE CONTINUES BE CONCERNED WITH LACK COMMUNICATION WITH PRESIDENT WHEN TRAVELING (PARTICULARLY FROM STANDPOINT PERSONAL SECURITY) AND SURETE CHIEF LIZINDE NATURALLY ALSO EMBARRASSED.

2. SURVEY. IN EFFORT GET OBJECTIVE SURVEY, EMBASSY ARRANGED FOR VISITING STATE COMTECH TO VISIT SURETE HDQTRS AND EXAMINE EQUIPMENT. ACCORDING TECHREP, CURRENT EQUIPMENT EVEN IF OPERATING AT FULL PEAK PERFORMANCE CANNOT PROVIDE COVERAGE GOR DESIRES. CURRENT EQUIPMENT IS SHORT-RANGE MOBILE COMBAT FIELD EQUIPMENT WITH MAXIMUM POWER OUTPUT 20 WATTS. (IN CONTRAST, EMBASSY SYSTEM IS 100 WATTS AND WE HAVE DIFFICULTY WITHIN RWANDA

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IN VIEW TORTURED TERRAIN). THUS, IN TECHREP'S VIEW,

EQUIPMENT INCAPABLE OF MEETING SURETE'S EXPRESSED NEED.

3. CURRENT EQUIPMENT. PATROL FONE MODEL SC130, 15-20 WATTS, FREQ. 2-12 MHZ SOLD BY SOUTHCOM INT'L INC, SUBSIDIARY CONIC CORP, 2210 MEYERS AVE, ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMB UNDERSTAND AF/C REP PRESENT DURING PART LIZINDE DISCUSSIONS WITH SOUTHCOM. IF SOUTHCOM HAS IN FACT NOT MET GOR SPECS, EMB BELIEVES SOUTHCOM SHOULD REPLACE CURRENT EQUIPMENT AT NO CHARGE OTHER THAN DIFFERENTIAL COST. THERE IS, OF COURSE, A POLITICAL CONSIDERATION FOR USG IN MATTER SINCE THIS FESTERING PROBLEM RELATES TO PERSONAL SECURITY OF PRESIDENT AND IMAGE OF US FIRMS. THUS, EMB RECOMMENDS AF/C CONTACT SOUTHCOM AND TRY TO WORK SOMETHING OUT. COST APPEARS NOT TO BE THE PROBLEM-SURETE WILLING TO PAY UP TO \$100,000 TO GET THE EQUIPMENT IT WANTS. HOWEVER, IT MUST ALSO BE ABLE OFFLOAD WHAT IT HAS. FRITTS

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